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DEPT. FOR EUR/WE (VAN CLEVE), EUR/WST, EUR/PD/PA, NEA/IAI,
NEA/NGA, SA/PAB, WHA/CAR, DRL/IRF

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 28/01

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VATICAN - "VIEWS FROM THE HILL"

1. THE FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 02 EDITION OF NEWS AND VIEWS
FROM VATICAN CITY.

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- POPE CALLS WORLD'S CARDINALS TO ROME TO PLAN FUTURE
- VATICAN AND MOSLEMS ISSUE JOINT CALL FOR PEACE IN ISRAEL
- PAPAL APPEAL FOR AFGHANISTAN
- IRAQ'S CATHOLIC LEADER WARNS OF RETALIATION BY SADDAM
- UKRAINIAN CARDINAL COMMENTS ON STATE OF THE NATION
- AMCIT APPOINTED PAPAL REPRESENTATIVE TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

POPE CALLS WORLD'S CARDINALS TO ROME

2. POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS ORDERED ALL THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S
CARDINALS TO ROME IN MAY TO DISCUSS POLICY ISSUES. CALLED AN
EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY, THE MAY 21-24 MEETING WILL ANALYZE
THE WAY THE POPE EXERCISES HIS AUTHORITY AND HOW THE WORLD'S
BISHOPS SHARE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.
VATICAN WATCHERS SUGGEST THE MEETING MIGHT ALSO ADDRESS THE
STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND OTHER
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN THE HOPE OF RE-ESTABLISHING FULL
UNITY. POPE JOHN PAUL HAS REGULARLY INSISTED ON THE PRIORITY
OF CHRISTIAN UNITY. AN EVENTUAL "RE-PHRASING" BY THE WORLD'S
CARDINALS OF HOW PAPAL AUTHORITY IS EXERCISED MAY MAKE IT
LESS OF A PROBLEM FOR OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, ESPECIALLY
THE ORTHODOX, TO ACCEPT.

VATICAN AND MOSLEMS CALL FOR PEACE

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3. A VATICAN DELEGATION MET IN CAIRO, EGYPT FEBRUARY 24
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ISLAM BASED AT AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY.
THE VATICAN'S INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE SPECIALIST, BISHOP
MICHAEL FITZGERALD, SAID THE MEETING FOCUSED IN PART ON "THE
DETERIORATING SITUATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST." A STATEMENT
RELEASED BY THE VATICAN SAID MOSLEM REPRESENTATIVES JOINED
ITS OWN DELEGATION IN CALLING FOR AN END TO THE ISRAELI-
PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY IN "UNJUSTLY OCCUPIED"
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES. THE JOINT STATEMENT AFFIRMED THE
SPECIAL CHARACTER OF JERUSALEM AS SACRED TO ALL THREE
MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS, AND CONDEMNED BREACHES OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, PARTICULARLY THE BLOCKING OF
ACCESS TO THE HOLY PLACES.

PAPAL APPEAL FOR AFGHANISTAN

4. POPE JOHN PAUL II APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF DROUGHT AND CIVIL WAR VICTIMS IN
AFGHANISTAN. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS FEBRUARY 28 GENERAL
AUDIENCE IN VATICAN CITY, THE POPE DECLARED THAT "A GRAVE
HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IS OCCURRING IN AFGHANISTAN." HE SAID
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, THE SICK AND THE
ELDERLY, WERE DYING OF HUNGER AND COLD. THE POPE EXPRESSED
HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF HUMANITARIAN
ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE REGION. HE APPEALED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY "NOT TO FORGET THIS TRAGIC
SITUATION," AND URGED ALL PARTIES IN "A WAR WHICH HAS BEEN
TOO LONG AND BLOODY" TO ARRANGE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE TO
ALLOW AID TO REACH PEOPLE MOST AT RISK.

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IRAQI PATRIARCH DECLARES SADDAM CAPABLE OF RETALIATION

5. PATRIARCH RAPHAEL BIDAWID OF BAGHDAD DECLARED THAT
RENEWED BOMBINGS OF MILITARY TARGETS BY US AND BRITISH

AIRCRAFT COULD PUSH SADDAM HUSSEIN "TO RETALIATE OUT OF DESPERATION." IN AN FEBRUARY 25 INTERVIEW WITH VATICAN NEWS AGENCY "FIDES," BIDAVID OPINED THAT "THE WHOLE OF THE ARAB WORLD IS NOW AGAINST THE AMERICANS AND THE BRITISH, AND READY TO COMMIT VIOLENCE AGAINST THE USA AND BRITAIN IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES." THE PATRIARCH SAID THAT THE MORE SADDAM HUSSEIN IS "MALTREATED", THE GREATER THE SUPPORT HE RECEIVES FROM ORDINARY IRAQIS. BIDAVID CALLED FOR A "SERIOUS DIALOGUE" AND DECLARED THAT AIR STRIKES WOULD ONLY LEAD TO MORE VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO THE CATHOLIC LEADER, WESTERNERS DO NOT APPRECIATE THE ARAB MENTALITY AND THAT IF AN ARAB'S DIGNITY IS OFFENDED "HE WILL BE AS FEROCIOUS AS A LION." BIDAVID SAID "IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE" THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS DIRECTED AT IRAQ HAVE NOT WEAKENED SADDAM HUSSEIN'S CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	WHA-00
	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	UTED-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	L-00	AC-01
	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-00	PMB-00	PRM-01
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/011W			

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INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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UKRAINE'S CARDINAL ASSESSES NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS UNITY

16. UKRAINE'S NEWLY CREATED CARDINAL LUBOMYR HUSAR WANTS TO "REASON WITH" HIS ORTHODOX CHURCH COUNTERPARTS WHO OBJECT TO A PAPAL VISIT IN JUNE. SPEAKING AT A FEBRUARY 22 PRESS CONFERENCE IN VATICAN CITY, HUSAR SAID CATHOLICS IN UKRAINE HAVE THE SAME CULTURE, HISTORY, CHURCH STRUCTURE, THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLINE AS THE ORTHODOX CHURCH. HUSAR ACKNOWLEDGED THE TENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ORTHODOX CHURCH LEADERS BUT SAID THE SITUATION "IS NOT A STALEMATE." ACCORDING TO THE CARDINAL, THERE ARE TWO COMPLICATING FACTORS. THE FIRST IS THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN UKRAINE, WHICH AFTER YEARS OF COMMUNIST REPRESSION IS "REBOUNDED WITH VIGOROUS HEALTH" AND IS ACCUSED BY THE ORTHODOX OF COMPETING FOR SOULS. SECONDLY, HUSAR SAID, THE ORTHODOX LEADERSHIP IS SPLINTERED AND THE MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE FEARS THAT A PAPAL VISIT MIGHT LEND CREDIBILITY TO ORTHODOX LEADERS OTHER THAN THE ONES BACKED BY MOSCOW. (NOTE: THE VATICAN HAS SAID POPE JOHN PAUL II WILL BE VISITING CATHOLIC FAITHFUL AND WILL NOT MAKE ANY INSENSITIVE INITIATIVES TOWARDS ORTHODOX LEADERS. END NOTE). CARDINAL HUSAR POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST THE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA MACHINE HAD PORTRAYED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A TOOL OF THE WEST DEDICATED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SOVIET STATE, AND THAT THE LINGERING EFFECTS OF THAT MESSAGE MAKE MANY UKRAINIANS UNEASY ABOUT THE CHURCH. HUSAR OPINED THAT THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT BACKED THE PAPAL VISIT AS A "MEANS OF DRAWING THE COUNTRY CLOSER TO THE OTHER NATIONS OF EUROPE."

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AMCIT APPOINTED AS PAPAL NUNCIO

17. POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS APPOINTED AMCIT VATICAN DIPLOMAT, MONSIGNOR TIMOTHY BROGLIO, AS PAPAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND PUERTO RICO. THE 49-YEAR-OLD CLEVELAND NATIVE WILL BE ORDAINED AN ARCHBISHOP BY THE POPE IN A MARCH 19 VATICAN CITY CEREMONY. AT PRESENT, BROGLIO IS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE (PRIME MINISTER EQUIVALENT), CARDINAL ANGELO SODANO. HE WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST IN 1977 AND HAS A DOCTORATE DEGREE IN CHURCH LAW. BROGLIO ENTERED THE VATICAN'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1983 AND HAS SERVED IN IVORY COAST AND PARAGUAY, AS WELL AS AT THE VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SPEAKS FRENCH, ITALIAN AND SPANISH. MERANTE

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